

It was in a swamp with tall grass. I hope the colour of the eye will give you a clue?

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CHIKMAGALUR DISTRICT,
(MYSORE STATE)
31st October, 1949.

G. V. R. FREND

[The yellow legs and red eye indicate that this was the Blue-breasted Quail (*Excalfactoria chinensis*). It is the size of a Button Quail and distinguished in the hand by its four toes as against three in the latter. Though the Fauna (Vol. V, p. 370) implies that it is widely spread and breeds throughout Peninsular India, there are very few definite records even of its occurrence. Sálím Ali failed to meet with it in his several surveys except at Warangal (Hyderabad) and in Bhopal (Central India). Bidie (*Stray Feathers* IX, p. 208) procured two while snipe-shooting in Chingleput District, while Jerdon 'got it in the Carnatic'. Dewar lists it from Madras without comment, and Ferguson found it in Travancore where he believed it bred. Wenden obtained a stray specimen at Vehar Lake near Bombay (*Stray Feathers* X, p. 165) and also at Poona whence Major W. B. Trevenen (*J.B.N.H.S.* XXVIII, p. 1081) lists it.—Eds.]

8. TWO BIRDS ABOUT WHICH MORE INFORMATION IS NEEDED

PINK-HEADED DUCK *Rhodonessa caryophyllacea*

While in the Manas, Kaziranga and other Game Sanctuary areas in Assam in March, 1949, Mr. Sálím Ali and I kept a sharp lookout for this rare duck and inquired about it from all possible sources. One Forest Ranger made an unconfirmed report of having seen a pair on the Belsiri River in the Balipara Frontier Tract in 1937. This aberrant-looking bird, which seems to me to be transitional between the river and diving ducks, has apparently not been reported by anyone since the mid-thirties. Aside from the unlikelihood of its occurring on a river when it has always been noted as an inhabitant of quiet forest 'Jheels', or 'bhils', I am not at all certain of the above record. I would welcome comment from the members of the Society on the status of this bird, for failing new records I am inclined to list it as extinct in my Handlist, now under preparation.

BLACK KALEEJ. *Lophura leucomelana moffitti*

This pheasant was described by Hachisuka in 1938 from captive birds in the U.S.A. Delacour (*Ibis*, 1949, p. 205) accepts this race and lists its range as 'unknown'. One pair of these birds was shipped from Calcutta to California in 1934, and one or more pairs to Japan